



Bryce Yokomizo  
Director

March 10, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

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FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

**SUBJECT: EVALUATION REPORT ON AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

The County funded After-School Enrichment Program received its second year evaluation, which was completed by the Department of Education, University of California, Irvine and Research Support Services. The evaluation was focused on the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) YS-CARE after-school enrichment program. The attached December 2002 evaluation report was released in January 2003.

### **Background**

Your Board approved the After-School Enrichment Program on May 11, 1999, which authorized the DPSS Director to enter into contracts with LAUSD and LACOE to develop and implement after-school enrichment programs designed to offer a safe environment that included academic assistance, homework help, enrichment activities, recreation, and quality child care at well-supervised school sites. The contracts also required annual evaluation reports.

The first evaluation report highly praised the success of this program's first year and stated "it is a model for the nation for ensuring academic achievement and development among children of recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families". YS-CARE was operational at 28 elementary schools, with 567 children enrolled at the end of its first year.

### **Evaluation Report - December 2002**

The current report describes the evaluation of the YS-CARE program's second year. It states the program has steadily increased in its effectiveness and benefits to the students. As of December 2002, the program had expanded to a total of 48 elementary school sites with 2,967 children enrolled.

#### Findings on Academic Achievement and Behavioral Measures

Matched pair comparisons of 2,058 YS-CARE students with 1,795 students not in the program reflected that YS-CARE participants had statistically significant gains in achievement and behavioral measures as follows:

- Gains on the SAT-9 Reading and SAT-9 Math scores (used by State).
- Gains on the LAUSD Reading Achievement.
- Initially, YS-CARE students had significantly lower scores on 13 of the 14 Work and Study Habits and Citizenship items at baseline. By the end of the year, the YS-CARE students narrowed this gap showing no statistical differences in nine of the 14 areas measured.
- During the program year, participants were absent from school fewer days and present more days than their matched non-participants.
- Particularly large benefits were found for students who had the lowest initial performance level on the achievement variables.

#### Findings from Surveys of Students, Parents, Teachers and YS-CARE Staff

- Parents continued to express an extremely high regard for the program. Eighty-five percent of approximately 1,900 parents surveyed, indicated the program is an excellent program. They felt YS-CARE provided a safe place for their children.
- The majority of the 2,233 participating students surveyed indicated that they enjoyed the program, were learning a lot and wanted to come back next year.
- Classroom teachers also felt very strongly about the success of the program as 92% indicated that students completed their homework; 93% felt that English fluency increased for those in need; 88% believed that children developed new interests and skills; 89% felt that positive behavior was reinforced; 91% thought that children were helped to stay out of trouble; and almost all agreed that in-grade retention was reduced.

Currently, YS-Care is successfully operational at 71 schools with 4,868 children enrolled.

BY:ps

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors